

Claim 1, line 12: Delete "open" and, in lieu thereof add — empty —.

Claim 2, line 14: Delete "open" and, in lieu thereof, add — empty —.

Claim 12, line 12: Delete "open" and, in lieu thereof, add — empty —.

Claim 13, line 14: Delete "open" and, in lieu thereof, add — empty —.

17. (*Twice Amended*) A panel piece for constructing a paneled assembly made up of any number of such panel pieces disposed atop one another, said panel piece comprising:

a front side and a rear side;

two opposing edge faces, one edge face being formed with a beveled recess [which extends from said front side to said rear side of the panel piece, said recess being] defined by a projecting first flange;

a second edge face [of said two opposing edge faces], also with a beveled recess, which [extends from said front side to said rear side and which] is matching of the beveled recess formed in the first edge face, said recess being defined by a projecting second flange the length of which is greater than that of the first flange, such that the joining of two like panel pieces results in an elongate space which demarcates one piece from another.

18. (*Twice Amended*) A panel assembly comprised of a plurality of like panel pieces joined to one another in matching engagement and secured to a support structure, each panel piece comprising:

a front side and a rear side;

two opposing edge faces, one edge face being formed with a beveled recess [which extends from said front side to said rear side of the panel piece, said recess being] defined by a projecting first flange [whose outer wall is coextensive with the rear side of said panel piece];

a second edge face [of said two opposing edge faces], also with a beveled recess, which [extends from said front side to said rear side and which] is